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EMERITUS

Roger Lipson

March 31, 2022

Dear Select Board Members,

As you weigh the merits of the following Warrant Articles, please consider their impacts on Brookline's local business community. Your willingness to hear our recommendations is greatly appreciated.

Warrant Articles 22 and 25:

The Brookline Chamber of Commerce supports eliminating the plastic products outlined in these Warrant Articles as a state mandate. It is possible to promote a greener lifestyle while supporting, not punishing local businesses.

Several Brookline businesses are still reeling from the pandemic, supply chain shortages, and hiring challenges. Without a clear understanding of the options for substitution, availability, and expense, it is premature to expect businesses to absorb yet another increase.

We have been reminded that Brookline has prohibited businesses from selling products in the past. This is true, however when product elimination takes place at the State level, local and neighboring communities are not forced to compete. There's a level playing field. If shoppers cannot find products in Brookline, they will purchase what they want elsewhere.

Assigning the Brookline Health Department to monitor and enforce these rules seems unrealistic.

Making our planet healthy is a necessity. You have the opportunity to make the process compassionate.

Warrant Article 30:

We applaud building affordable housing, sorely needed in Brookline. While further parking will be reduced in Brookline Village, parking places throughout the Town have been eliminated. If we want our business community to thrive, sufficient parking is critical. Our businesses are reliant on customers who travel by car as well as other modes of transportation.

Is the Town keeping track of parking spaces in each business district and the Town as a whole? If we want people to eat in our restaurants, shop in our stores, or enjoy entertainment in Brookline, parking must be a consideration. If customers cannot park their cars, they will drive away.

Sincerely,

Deborah G. Miller
Executive Director

David Gladstone
Board President